

Memorandum

Date : October 3, 2001

To : Management Agencies

Project Agencies

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject: **Fish Action #8: April 20 through May 20, 2001 (VAMP)**

Description of Action

The Management Agencies requested an export reduction at the State Water Project and Central Valley Project facilities consistent with the San Joaquin River Agreement and the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP). Pursuant to the VAMP study plan, and after an evaluation to determine the base flow, the target flow at Vernalis was set at 4,500 cfs with combined exports at the CVP and SWP established at 1,500 cfs from April 20 through May 20, 2001. The purpose of the VAMP is to evaluate the relative effects of exports, inflow and the HORB on juvenile San Joaquin basin chinook salmon survival and assist in providing protection for both anadromous and estuarine species. An increase in the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead emigrating from the Sacramento River basin and East-side tributaries to the Delta may also occur due to improved Delta hydrodynamic conditions created by the VAMP.

Installation of the temporary barrier at the Head of Old River (HORB) was completed on April 26, 2001. The Delta Cross Channel gates were closed during this period.

Estimated Cost Of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that these actions could reduce the State Water Project exports by approximately 42 TAF. The estimate assumes SWP exports would continue at a level approximately between 212 and 1,857 cfs in the base operation. The actual amount could be either more or less dependent upon the actual operations required to meet Delta standards. DWR has not performed a cost analysis of the change in operations.

Method Of Accounting For Costs

DWR will provide to the Management Agencies an accounting of the actual water, energy, storage and conveyance costs. The water cost analysis will be provided within thirty days of completing the action and will include a comparison between the actual operation (with the fish action) and a base operation (based on planned exports).

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T. Pettit 10/4/01

C. Creel 10/4/01

All other costs will be submitted thirty days upon completion of the recovery actions. Disagreements regarding the analysis are to be discussed within the B2/EWA Interagency Team. Disputes will be resolved by the Ops Group. If the Ops Group is unable to resolve the dispute, it will be elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

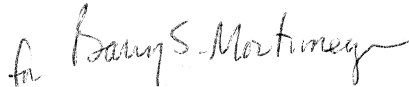
B(2)/EWA Assets

The Management Agencies have concluded that this may be an EWA action. Therefore, EWA assets may be applied to the export reductions of the SWP. The proposed fish action is not to impact the baseline delivery capability of the SWP. Therefore, DWR is to make operations and water allocation decisions based upon the base operations plan, absent the fish action.

The Department of Interior may have water available in the B(2) account, and either a portion of or all of the water can be applied towards this proposed fish action, thereby changing it to a B(2) action from an EWA action. However, if the decision is made not to use B(2) water, there are adequate EWA assets available to cover this April/May fish action. The amount of water and the time it becomes available will be determined when DWR submits the final water cost analysis to the Management Agencies.



Carl A. Torgersen, Chief
SWP Operations Control Office
Division of Operations and Maintenance



Chester Bowling, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations
Bureau of Reclamation

Management Agency Authorization provided by:

Department of Fish and Game – Perry Herrgesell
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services – Michael Thabault
National Marine Fisheries Services – Michael Aceituno